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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
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# NEWS

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## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE CATALOG, 1961

The National Library of Medicine Catalog, 1961, has now been published. Supplementing the 1950-54 and the 1955-59 quinquennial issues and the 1960 issue, it serves, together with Index Medicus, as a continuation of the Library's bibliographical record begun in 1880 with the publication of the Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office.

Published as a joint operation of the Library of Congress Processing Department and NLM's Technical Services Division, the 1961 Catalog is sold by the Card Division of the Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C. The cost is $20, plus 50 cents for postage.

The NLM Catalog continues to be divided into two parts; Part I, Authors (p. 1-593) is an alphabetical author and title list including entries for items of medical interest for material currently received and cataloged during the twelve-month period November 1960-October 1961, and for works from the old collections which were recataloged during this same period, regardless of date of publication.

Part II, Subjects (p. 597-930) includes mainly only the entries for works published since 1935, in accordance with the Library's policy of twenty-five-year subject coverage. The subject headings are taken from Medical Subject Headings published by NLM (1st ed., 1960). They are the same as those used in the 1960 Catalog and in Index Medicus since January 1960, and reflect the modifications made in MeSH since 1960. These subject headings vary extensively from those used in volumes of the Catalog published before 1960.

In the 1961 Catalog a major change in the format of the subject section has been initiated: tracings do not appear on entries in the subject part. (Tracings for added entries, including subjects, continue to appear on the main entries in the author section.) This change has saved the cost of an estimated 143 pages that would have been required if the old format had been continued, and has contributed greatly to maintenance of the $20 price level for the annual Catalog.

## SCIENCE INFORMATION SPECIALIST PROGRAM

The American Institute of Biological Sciences announces in BSCP Communiqué a "Science Information Specialist Training Program" established (February 1962) under a grant from the National Institutes of Health to the Biological Sciences Communication Project. The torrent of new scientific publications, the impossible task for the scientist in keeping abreast of the output, and the belief that the problem might best be attacked through the use of science information specialists are cited as indicating the need for such a program Intensive formal study at Washington, D.C. universities and on-the-job training at BSCP for qualified individuals to begin one, two, or three years of training constitute the program which begins with the summer session, June 25, 1962. Basic requirements are: a B.S. degree with a science major, but preferably the M.S. degree in some biological specialty or in library science; desire to work toward the Ph.D., and interest in the field of information and communication. Interested persons are invited to submit official transcripts of formal education and curriculum vitae to Mr. Paul C. Janaske, Assistant Director, Biological Sciences Communication Project, 2000 P Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

## MOVING THE NLM CARD CATALOGS

The moving of approximately 1.25 million catalog cards from one building to another and from old to new card cabinets required detailed advance planning. The move involved six separate files: Name Catalog, Old Subject Catalog, New Subject Catalog, Old Public Catalog, Official Shelflist, and Name Authority File. As a first step each file was reviewed for needed expansion and for any necessary preliminary rearrangement.

The Name Catalog, containing approximately 545,000 cards housed in 660 trays, presented the greatest need for expansion. Since more than ample space would be provided in the new catalog cabinets, it was decided that each tray would contain approximately six inches of cards. The next step was to measure the cards in the old trays and insert markers. A slight variation in number was allowed if it permitted a better division of cards; for example, an entry would not be divided between two trays. Each marker was then numbered and lettered for the contents of each of the new trays (i.e. COM-CON). A duplicate list of the proposed number and contents of each tray was made for use in the typing of new tray labels; the labels were proofread, checked with markers in the catalog, and then inserted in the trays of the new cabinets. These steps were completed before moving day.

A similar routine was followed for each file where expansion or rearrangement was necessary. The Old Public Catalog required a considerable amount of rearrangement. It is in reality two files: an alphabetical shelflist of the old collection and a name catalog. Before moving the alphabetical shelflist was separated into other trays and the necessary new labels made for both parts of the file. The Official Shelflist will be expanded as soon as possible into the best of the card cabinets moved from the old building.

On moving day the cards were moved in the old cabinets; each cabinet was numbered and the movers were instructed to place each cabinet so that the cards contained therein would be as close as possible to their places in the new cabinets. The cards were then transferred into the previously labeled trays by Catalog Section staff, working in ten teams of two each, and all cards were shifted in two and a half hours.

## EVENTS OF MAY

On May 11 the slip from the Hippocrates plane tree on the Greek island of Cos was planted at the National Library of Medicine. Chief participants in the brief ceremony were Mr. Morris Leikind of the National Institutes of Health; Mr. Herbert M. Smith, NLM's oldest employee in point of service (42 years), and Dr. Worth B. Daniels, representing the NLM Board of Regents.

On two successive Sundays, May 13 and 20, NLM held Open House for the medical community of the Washington metropolitan area; more than 800 persons were escorted on tours of the building.

On May 31 some 150 members attending the convention of the Special Libraries Association in Washington toured NLM and heard a presentation on the MEDLARS project.

## OUT OF THE PAST

"New York, December 15th, 1875

Asst. Surg. J.S. Billings, U.S.A.

D$^{r}$. D$^{r}$: I regret to Say that the publication of the 'Revista Medica-Quirurgica y Dentistica' ended with the issue of its third number. [1868] It died of a complicated disease the chief factors of which were an impoverished condition of its circulating fluid, the Cuban civil war, and the haughty disdain of the proud Castilian for American enterprise.

With its expiring throe it faintly murmured:-

'If so soon that I was done for
I wonder what I was begun for.'

Yrs. respy.

John Howe, M.D."

## AMSTERDAM MEETING

Dr. Frank B. Rogers, NLM Director, attended an "International Meeting on the Modernization of Medical Documentation" held at the Excerpta Medica Foundation in Amsterdam, May 15-17. Dr. Woerdeman, Mr. van Tongeren, Mr. Warren, and Mr. Cauverien were present for Excerpta Medica; others present were Professor V. Braitenberg, University of Naples; Dr. R. Bree and Mr. Léon Rolling, EURATOM; Mr. D. A. Brunning, Institute for Cancer Research, London; Dr. Carl-Johan Clemedson, University of Göteborg; Dr. Stella Deignan, National Institutes of Health; Dr. Max Euwe and Mr. A. B. Frielink, Netherlands Automatic Data Processing Centre; Mr. Allen Kent, Western Reserve University; Dr. E. J. Knudtzon, Karolinska Mediko-Kirurgiska Institutets-Biblioteket, Stockholm; Dr. B. Løppenthin, Index Medicus Danicus; Dr. Otto Nacke, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation.

## AMERICANA ACQUISITIONS

NLM recently acquired a copy of Félix Pascalis-Ouvière, An account of the contagious epidemic yellow fever, which prevailed in Philadelphia in the summer and autumn of 1797. ... to replace the pathetic copy acquired in September 1869, which was badly stained and foxed, and in which a portion of the title page was missing. Both copies refer on the title page to the PHILADEDPHIA ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

Also acquired was Horton Howard, An improved system of botanic medicine ... Third edition, revised and corrected. Columbus, Ohio: Published by the proprietors, Horton J. Howard, printer, Saint Clairsville, Ohio, 1836, 3 v. Of this Americanum the Library had held previously only volumes 1 and 2. Now volume 3, and volume 3 only, has been acquired--from a dealer in Ontario.

## PUBLICATION REMINDER

Biomedical Serials, 1950-1960; a selective list of serials in the National Library of Medicine. Compiled by Lela M. Spanier, 1962. 503 p. (Public Health Service Publication No. 910). Available at $3 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Lists 8,939 titles.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960

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